

Hello Latin America & Canada!

Check it out! <http://tricare15.army.mil>

Go there today and see . . .

. . . What's New!



**** Newsflash ****

We are please to announce tentative scheduling of the TRICARE Region 15 Spring 2001 Conference. Tentative dates are the 24th and 25th of April 2001 in Miami or Houston (to be determined).

As with the April 2000 Region 15 Conference, those invited to attend are the Points of Contact at the Embassies/Consulates and remote locations in Central/South America, the Caribbean Basin, Canada, and representatives from each of the Military Treatment Facilities in Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Please send any input you have for the conference to tricare15@se.amedd.army.mil.

TDY Personnel

Continuing to work through the hurdles and challenges of getting the cashless/claimless benefit for TDY and on leave personnel in the TLAC area. We still plan to have resolution and top level support by the end of the calendar year . . . this one!

FDA ISSUES PUBLIC HEALTH WARNING ON PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE FDA, today (6 NOV 00), is taking steps to remove phenylpropanolamine from all drug products and has requested that all drug companies discontinue marketing products containing phenylpropanolamine.

FDA today issued a public health advisory concerning the risk of hemorrhagic stroke, or bleeding into the brain, associated with phenylpropanolamine hydrochloride. Phenylpropanolamine is an ingredient used in many over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription cough and cold medications as a decongestant and in OTC weight loss products.

Adverse events reported with these products led to concerns that this ingredient might increase the risk of hemorrhagic strokes. Manufacturers of products containing phenylpropanolamine worked with FDA to plan a research program to clarify whether any increase in risk exists.

Scientists at Yale University School of Medicine conducted the study in which the researchers found an association between phenylpropanolamine use and stroke in women. The increased risk of hemorrhagic stroke was detected among women using the drug for weight control, and for nasal decongestion, in the 3 days after starting use of the medication. Men may also be at risk.

The Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee met on October 19 to discuss safety issues related to phenylpropanolamine use. The committee reviewed Yale's Hemorrhagic Stroke Project results and concluded that phenylpropanolamine cannot be considered to be safe for continued use.

FDA believes that although the risk of hemorrhagic stroke is very low, even with phenylpropanolamine use, the conditions for which these products are used do not appear to warrant an increased risk of this serious event from using this drug. We advise consumers to discuss alternative over-the-counter and prescription products with their health care providers or pharmacists.

TRICARE Support Office Hours

The TSO is open Monday - Friday, 0730 – 1630 Eastern Daylight Time.

We will be **closed** on the following days:

- Monday 25 December 2000 *Christmas*
- Monday 1 January 2001 *New Year's Day*
- Monday 15 January 2001 *Martin Luther King's Birthday*
- Tuesday 26 December 2000 *Training Holiday*
- Tuesday 2 January 2001 *Training Holiday*